

On some African Histeridae.

By

G. Lewis F. L. S.

Dr. G. Kraatz has kindly sent me for examination and determination some species lately received from Togo, a German settlement lying between Ashanti and Dahomey; I find that some of the species are well-known as occurring on the West Coast of Africa, some have lately been described from the Congo-River and others, six in number, are apparently new. The following is a list of the species:

<i>Hololepta pinguis</i> Sch.	<i>Pachycraerus Ritsemæ</i> Mars.
- <i>malariae</i> .	<i>Hister crenulatus</i> .
- <i>alligans</i> Mars.	- <i>Bismarckii</i> .
<i>Placodes senegalensis</i> Payk.	- <i>aschanti</i> Sch.
<i>Macrosternus Lafertei</i> Mars.	<i>Carcinops togoensis</i> .
<i>Anaglymma afra</i> Lew.	<i>Paromalus exiguus</i> Fähr?
- <i>congonis</i> .	<i>Triballus corpulentus</i> Lew.
<i>Apobletes foliaceus</i> Payk.	<i>Trypeticus africanus</i> .
- <i>angolensis</i> Lew.	<i>Epiechinus bipartitus</i> Lew.
<i>Platysoma castanipes</i> Mars.	

I believe all the specimens are from the neighbourhood of Bismarckburg, and I am much indebted to Dr. Kraatz for allowing me to retain single examples.

Hololepta pinguis Sch. 1892.

This species was originally described from the Gabon; and there is a single example in this collection which appears to belong to it. This example measures 8 mill. and has the outline of *H. Belti* Lew.

Hololepta malariae sp. n.

Oblongo-ovata, depressa, nigra nitida; capite haud striato; prosterno lato. — Long. $7\frac{1}{2}$ —8 mill.

Oblong oval, depressed, black and shining; the head feebly impressed behind the mandibles, without striae; the thorax smooth somewhat angulate on the sides in the middle, lateral stria fine, interstice very narrow, anterior angle very feebly emarginate in ♀ more distinctly emarginate in ♂, a median line before the scutellum reaches the middle of the disc, surface and also that of the head

microscopically punctulate; the elytra, subhumeral fossa smooth not continued as a stria before nor behind, striae, first short and basal, length rather more than one fourth of the elytra, with an appendage of similar length, 2 about half the length of the first, 3 shorter; the propygidium has a bent sulcus on either side with a few punctures at either end of the sulcus, the apical edge is biimpressed; the pygidium, immarginate, clearly and closely punctate; the prosternum broad, almost as broad anteriorly as behind, sinuous at the coxae; the legs, anterior tibiae 4-dentate. ♂ has a very distinct fovea within the anterior angle of the thorax and the punctures of the pygidium are rather less closely set.

The species resembles *H. arcifera* Mars. in most of its characters; but it is a little more oblong in outline, anterior angle of the thorax incised, thorax more distinctly angulate laterally; propygidium and pygidium less transverse and the last more closely punctate; and the prosternum is markedly broader. The elytral striae are similar in both species.

Anaglymma congonis sp. n.

Breviter ovalis, depressa, nigra, nitida; antennis pedibusque obscure rufis; capite sparse punctato, fronte laeviter excavata; elytris striis 1—4 integris, 5—6 utrinque abbreviatis. — Long. $2\frac{1}{2}$ — $2\frac{3}{4}$ mill.

Shortly oval, depressed, black, shining; the head evenly not thickly punctulate, forehead somewhat excavated, stria ceasing anteriorly over the eyes; the thorax, marginal stria complete, fine and obscurely crenulate behind the neck and runs close to the edges, laterally well-marked, with the margin, at and before the basal angle, a little raised, disc and base on the scutellar region smooth, laterally broadly punctate, punctures evenly not thickly set but varying somewhat in size, largest behind the eyes, scutellar fovea very minute; the elytra, humeral stria fine and crenulate, 2, 3 and 4 near the base turn towards the scutellum especially the fourth, 5—6 not divided like those of *A. afra* Lew. but equal to each other and shortened before and behind with the edges clearly crenulate, apical margin with a band of clear but small punctures; the propygidium and pygidium very clearly punctate except the apex of the latter which is smooth; the prosternum, anterior lobe punctate, lateral stria slightly diverging before the coxae, keel flat and smooth; the mesosternum, anterior edge feebly sinuous with an arched stria common to it and the metasternum and which after

passing the intermediate coxae is divided into two; the metasternum smooth with a small cluster of punctures near the posterior coxae; the femora, anterior pair conspicuously punctate on the under surface, the others smooth, anterior tibiae 4—5 spinose, the spine rather nearer the base than the middle being detached from the next two which are placed somewhat together near the tarsi.

Anaglymma afra Lew. has the anterior femora somewhat similarly punctured but less conspicuously than those of *A. congonis*. *A. crenulata* Lew. also resembles it in this respect.

This species is undoubtedly congenerie with *A. afra*, figured in the Ann. M. N. Hist. Vol. XIV, Ser. 6, 1894, p. 174, but the fifth and sutural striae are not divided, the prosternum is not so wide and the arched stria of the meso- and metasterna widens out somewhat behind.

Hister crenulatus sp. n.

Ovatus, convexus, niger, nitidus; thorace stria interna profunde impressa; elytris striis subhumerali interna, dorsalibus tribus primis integris. 4^a subintegris, 5^a dimidiata, suturali antice abbreviata. — Long. 8—8½ mill.

Oval, convex, black, shining; the head, mandibles immarginate, stria straight anteriorly, subhexagonal, smooth rather wide; the thorax lateral marginal stria very fine terminating behind the eye, intermediate stria continues anteriorly round the angle and posteriorly terminates in a small fovea well before the base, interior stria laterally wide and deep, not sinuous, with a narrow margin of punctures along its inward edge, behind the head it continues moderately impressed with somewhat crenulate edges, along the basal edge opposite the complete striae are some more or less oblong punctures; the elytra, striae, internal-subhumeral and first to third deep and wide with crenulate edges (corresponding in form to those of *H. rugistrius* Lew. from India), fourth less wide and deep, very slightly shortened at the apex and sometimes joined to the fifth, fifth apical and dimidiate, sutural shortened before the base and slightly turning from the suture at either end, interstice between it and the fifth rather wide; the propygidium, punctures rather large somewhat oval and densely set with the interstices a little raised giving them a netlike appearance; the pygidium similarly punctured, but the punctures are slightly smaller and even more dense (the punctures on the pygidium agree with those of *H. fortis* Sch.); the prosternum, keel without striae,

posterior lobe reflexed at the base, anterior lobe with two fine striae at the sides; the mesosternum rather wide nearly straight in front, marginate; the legs, anterior tibiae 3-dentate, tarsal grooves straight and deep, anterior thighs marginate on the edges with two fine lateral internal striae.

The internal subhumeral stria and the first dorsal stria join apically and are alike in depth width and completeness; this gives the species the appearance of having fourteen dorsal striae.

Hister Bismarcki sp. n.

Ovalis, convexus, niger, nitidus; fronte stria integra late arcuata; thorace stria interna integra sinuata, externa parum abbreviata; elytris striis 1—3 integris, 4—6 abbreviatis; propygidio pygidioque dense punctatis; prosterno lobo bistriato. — Long. $6\frac{1}{2}$ mill.

Oval, convex, black, shining; the head smooth stria widely arched and feebly sinuous; the thorax marginal stria extremely fine and only visible above near the anterior angle, internal stria sinuous and deep laterally, fine and feebly crenulate behind the head, external stria rather fine and abbreviated before the base, scutellar fovea small; the elytra, striae, internal subhumeral deep and rather wide reaching the apex but well shortened in front, 1—3 complete with interstices widening towards the bases, 4 apical dimidiate and bent, 5 shorter and straight, 6 passes the middle and apically turns away from the suture; the propygidium densely punctate, punctures somewhat oblong, base narrowly smooth, lateral edges feebly raised; the pygidium very densely punctured, punctures with interstices a little raised and arranged somewhat longitudinally, posterior margin narrowly raised; the prosternum, anterior lobe bistrate on either side, posterior lobe small; the mesosternum truncate, marginal stria entire; the legs, anterior tibiae dilated gradually from the bases, 3- or 4-dentate, apical tooth triangular.

The funiculi of the antennae in *H. crenulatus*, *Bismarckii* and *H. aschanti* (if I have rightly determined the last) have the joints gradually enlarged towards the club and, in the genus *Campylorrhabus*, one of the characters is „*funiculi articulis sensim crassioribus*“.

Hister aschanti Sch. 1889.

An example in this collection agrees with Herr Schmidt's description except that the thorax is not ciliate. This makes my determination doubtful.

Carcinops togoensis sp. n.

Ovalis, convexa, nigra, nitida; capite basin minute foveolata; thorace parte valde punctato; elytris striis 1—5 integris, suturali duplicata et dimidiata; prosterno in medio carinato. — Long. 3 mill.

Oval, convex, black, shining; the head smooth with a small fovea in the middle close to the base, marginal stria complete and wellmarked; the thorax, marginal stria also wellmarked, surface, except the area before the scutellum, has large and deep, somewhat scattered, punctures and on each side of a scutellar fovea there are punctures along the basal edge; the elytra, striae 1—5 complete and punctate, 4—5 being punctiform near the apices, the sutural stria is represented by 2 parallel striae apical but reaching the middle, the outer one is punctiform; the propygidium is transversely punctate like the thorax; the pygidium smooth; the prosternum lateral striae sinuous and complete with the keel markedly carinate especially behind the anterior lobe; the mesosternum in somewhat widely emarginate, stria complete anteriorly and after passing the suture of the metasternum the lateral striae are parallel to each other, both the sternal plates are smooth; the legs, the anterior tibiae are 4 or 5 dentate, the four denticulations on the edge being equidistant (a character not usual in *Carcinops*), intermediate and posterior tibiae somewhat dilated from behind the base but rounded off at the tarsal end. The legs are formed like those of the allied genus *Dendrophilus*.

I do not think the form of the tibiae are sufficient to separate this species from *Carcinops*.

Trypeticus africanus sp. n.

Cylindricus, subelongatus, brunneus, nitidus; capite haud striato, rostro truncato; thorace vix quadrato; elytris parum brevibus; pygidio concavo; prosterno (basi excepta) marginato, utrinque truncato. — Long. $2\frac{1}{2}$ mill.

Cylindrical, somewhat elongate, brown, shining; the head, face feebly impressed, rostrum rather short, somewhat broad and anteriorly truncate, less closely punctured than the head punctures somewhat aciculate, between the eyes there is a small median fovea; the thorax nearly quadrate with the anterior angles shortly arched, lateral stria well-marked, surface clearly and somewhat densely punctured; the elytra about as long as the head and thorax together, punctured less densely than the thorax; the propygidium punctured like the thorax; the pygidium, outline like a reversed

arch, wholly concave above, punctate, punctures much larger than those of the propygidium and deep and round; the prosternum, keel with the lateral and anterior margins narrowly raised, truncate before and behind, slightly widest anteriorly, surface rugosely and longitudinally strigose; the mesosternum lateral margin raised, feebly sinuous in front, sculptured like the prosternal keel, but rather less closely; the metasternum with a well-marked median channel, surface sculpture more punctiform than that of the mesosternum.

I cannot decide the sex of this specimen.

Ueber *Anaglymma* und *Placodes*.

Für die Berechtigung der Gattung *Anaglymma* spricht unter Anderem auch ein bisher übersehenes Geschlechtsmerkmal, welches bei keiner der verwandten Gattungen vorzukommen scheint. Der von Lewis bei *A. Cardoni* (Ann. Soc. Ent. Belg. 1894, p. 213) erwähnte Seiteneindruck des Pygidiums findet sich nur bei dem einen Geschlecht (wahrscheinlich dem ♂); bei dem anderen ist das Pygidium an der Basis jederseits kaum merklich abgeflacht, nach der Spitze zu leicht aufgetrieben und die Spitze in gröfserer Ausdehnung als beim ♂ glatt. Ich habe diese Verschiedenheit bei *A. circularis* Mars., *crenulata* Lew. und bei einer n. sp. aus Ostafrika beobachtet, welche dem *circularis* zum Verwechseln ähnlich ist.

A. circularis und *crenulata* erhielt ich von Sumatra (Tebing-Tinggi, Dr. Schultheifs), sie scheinen also dort zusammen vorzukommen.

Placodes intermedius Schm. 1 Ex. sandte Hr. Dr. Kraatz von Togo (Bismarckburg) ein, zugleich mit *P. Senegalensis* Pk. Die Art ist kürzer und im Ganzen etwas kleiner als *Senegalensis* und unterscheidet sich, aufser durch die in der Beschreibung angegebenen Kennzeichen (Sculptur des Prosternums, ganzer äufserer Subhumeralstreif etc.), auch durch die im Verhältnifs zu den Dorsalstreifen sehr breiten und tiefen Subhumeralstreifen. Bei dem Dutzend Exemplaren von *intermedius*, die ich jetzt vor mir habe, ist der Spitzenrand bis zum Anfang der Streifen, aufsen auch zwischen denselben, dicht und kräftig punktirt, beim *Senegalensis* findet sich nur selten eine Andeutung solcher Punktirung. Joh. Schmidt.